

JAMES MADISON

James Madison



JOHN ADAMS
2nd President
1797—1801



JEFFERSON
3rd President
1801—1809



Oil painting on canvas (about 1792) by Charles Willson Peale; Thomas Jefferson Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa, Okla.



The United States flag had 15 stars and 15 stripes when Madison took office, even though there were 17 states.



MONROE
5th President
1817—1825



J. Q. ADAMS
6th President
1825—1829

4TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1809-1817

MADISON, JAMES (1751-1836), is called "the Father of the Constitution." He planned the system of checks and balances that regulate the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the United States government. Madison served his country in many public offices during a period of 40 years. As Secretary of State and as President, he kept the United States out of the Napoleonic Wars. But, reluctantly, he led the country into the War of 1812. After the war, Madison's wise policies encouraged national growth.

Madison was a close friend of Thomas Jefferson, whom he followed in the presidency. Together, these two Virginians made an unexcelled team in constructive statesmanship. Madison displayed skill at solving difficult problems of government. Jefferson contributed a fine ability to phrase political truths. Their close agreement on political matters led them to join in organizing the Democratic-Republican party.

Physically small and frail, Madison did as much as any American toward building a strong federal government. At the Constitutional Convention, he worked to strengthen the national union of states. He spoke out fearlessly for nationalism when most Americans put states' rights ahead of the national interest. But Madison was by nature a mediator. He resisted Alexander Hamilton's tendency to strengthen the federal government at the expense of the states. He also softened Jefferson's views favoring states' rights. Most Americans today accept Madison's view on the relationship between the states and the federal government, rather

than the extreme views of either Hamilton or Jefferson.

Streams of settlers surged westward during Madison's administration. The lack of imported goods during the War of 1812 encouraged industries to expand, and set the country on the path to becoming an industrial nation. The war also gave the American people their national anthem. Early one morning, as British shells burst about Fort Mifflin in Baltimore harbor, Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Early Life

James Madison was born in the home of his mother's parents on March 16, 1751 (March 5 by the calendar then in use). They lived at Port Conway, Va., about 12 miles (19 kilometers) from Fredericksburg. James was the eldest of 12 children. The families of his father, James Madison, and his mother, Nelly Conway Madison, had settled in Virginia during the 1600's. Many

IMPORTANT DATES IN MADISON'S LIFE

- 1751** (March 16) Born at Port Conway, Va.
- 1779** Elected to the Continental Congress.
- 1787** Served at the Constitutional Convention.
- 1789** Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 1794** (Sept. 15) Married Dolley Payne Todd.
- 1801** Appointed Secretary of State.
- 1808** Elected President of the United States.
- 1812** Recommended war with Great Britain. Re-elected President.
- 1829** Served at the Virginia Constitutional Convention.
- 1836** (June 28) Died at Montpelier, his family estate.

slaves worked on the Madison plantation, Montpelier.

James was a frail and sickly child. He studied with private tutors, and attended the Donald Robertson School in King and Queen County. At the age of 18, he entered the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). He took an active interest in politics, and was an early member of the American Whig Society. Madison studied very hard, sometimes sleeping only five hours a night. He completed the regular course at Princeton in two years, and was graduated in 1771.

Madison spent the next six months studying Hebrew, philosophy, and other subjects that showed his deep interest in religious questions. A weak speaking voice prevented him from taking up a career as a minister. He soon turned his attention to politics.

Political and Public Career

Entry into Politics. Madison entered politics in 1774, when he was elected to the Committee of Safety in

MADISON, JAMES

Orange County, Virginia. Committees of this kind provided local government in the days when the British colonial government was crumbling. In 1776, Madison served on a committee that drafted a new Virginia constitution and the Virginia Declaration of Rights. Other colonies later copied these documents.

Madison served in Virginia's first legislative assembly in 1776, where he met Thomas Jefferson. The two men soon began a lifetime friendship. Madison was defeated for re-election in 1777. Late in life, he said he lost because he did not provide enough refreshments for the electors. In 1778, the Virginia Assembly elected Madison to the Governor's Council, an advisory group. He held this post until December, 1779, when he was elected to the Continental Congress.

Madison took his seat in Congress in March, 1780. In those days, Congress had no power to raise taxes, and

THE WORLD OF PRESIDENT MADISON

U.S. population was 8,900,000 in 1817. Louisiana became a state in 1812, and Indiana in 1816. Congress organized the Missouri Territory in 1812, and the Alabama Territory in 1817.



WORLD EVENTS

- 1812 Napoleon invaded Russia, but had to retreat.
- 1814 Denmark gave Norway to Sweden.
- 1815 Belgium united with The Netherlands to form a single country.
- 1815 Napoleon was crushed at Waterloo.
- 1815 Switzerland became independent of France.

Napoleon Bonaparte



White House Was Burned by the British in 1814, during the War of 1812. Madison had to flee to avoid capture.



"The Star-Spangled Banner" was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key. He wrote it during the British attack on Baltimore.



Cumberland Road was started in 1811 as part of the federal program to improve canals, roads, and bridges.



Treaty of Ghent, signed by Great Britain and the United States in 1814, ended the indecisive War of 1812.



First Savings Banks in the country were founded at Philadelphia and Boston in 1816.

James A
Garfield
Pres of USA
1880 to 1881

for
Lish
Duke

